

TO THE PAUL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report for the year 1896.

Inspection of the District.

During the year all parts of the district have been periodically inspected.

House Accommodation.

Few new houses have been built, and the accommodation of the inhabitants remains much as it was. The cottages are mostly old, but generally in fair condition. There is close packing in some, but pronounced over-crowding is rare, the domestic instincts of the people being opposed to combined occupation by separate families, while a strong moral feeling prevents the indiscriminate throwing together of the grown young of different sexes in a common bedroom.

In one case at Trevithal I reported to you in November the existence of a double nuisance, stating—(1) the over-crowding of the house, (2) the unfitness of the building for human habitation. Both conditions remain at the present moment.

Drainage.

The continued delay in the prosecution of your Drainage Scheme for Newlyn is greatly to be regretted. It is of urgent importance to the health of the town that the sewers should be carried to points outside the Harbour as speedily as possible.

Water Supply.

The supply of water to Newlyn and Mousehole continues to be plentiful and good. Indeed Newlyn would appear to supply, in addition to its own inhabitants, a not inconsiderable portion of the residents of Tolcarn, Madron.

The enforcement of proper closet and ash-pit provisions at Antoine Terrace, Newlyn, should secure the shallow well there used as a water supply against a long-standing danger of contamination.

I understand that your scheme for improvement of the water supply of Mousehole is gradually approaching maturity.

School Closets.

The large cesspits remain at the Newlyn Board School.

Bake-houses, Slaughter-house, Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk-shops.

There are 14 bakehouses at Newlyn and Mousehole, unregistered. There is one slaughter-house, unregistered but well kept. Thirty-five premises are registered and inspected under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk-shops' Order.

Monthly and other Reports.

Fourteen reports in all have been made to you by me during the year. These include twelve monthly reports of sickness and death, copies of which have been supplied to the County Council.

Tables A and B.—Vital Statistics for 1896, and Comparison of the Rates for the District generally, and of the Death-rates within the separate localities, for the years 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, and 1896.

Births during the year have numbered 170, deaths 83, giving a natural increase of 87 (over 50 per cent.) The birth-rate is 28.52, the death-rate 13.92, the lowest since 1892. As usual, more deaths of females than of males are registered, and this year the female element, as usual, slightly preponderates in the births. The infantile mortality is, happily, low—105.88, the lowest figure for the five years quoted. The zymotic death-rate for the year is 1.69.

The following table shows the distribution of deaths between the sub-localities, while the columns appended compare their respective death-rates for 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, and 1896.

	Population. (Census, 1891.)		Deaths.					Death-rates.		
			1896.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.		
NEWLYN ...	3,323	...	39	13.54	21.06	16.6	14.44	11.74		
MOUSEHOLE ...	1,602	...	30	12.48	14.35	14.4	13.1	18.73		
REST OF DISTRICT	1,036	...	14	18.34	24.13	16.45	29.92	13.51		
	<u>5,961</u>	..	<u>83</u>	<u>14.09</u>	<u>19.79</u>	<u>15.97</u>	<u>16.83</u>	<u>13.92</u>		

Mousehole. Mousehole, which in all previous years has shown the lowest death-rate, this year leaps to the other extreme and displays the highest. Two deaths of adults occurred there from Typhoid Fever, and three from Phthisis, but analysis of the Death Register shows that the main portion of the rise is due to a disproportionate infantile mortality, half the deaths under one year in the district, or 9 out of 18, having occurred at Mousehole. Three of these were of twin birth, and one of a prematurely born male. Of the remaining five one died of Broncho-pneumonia, one of Gastro-enteritis, two of "Convulsions," and one of "Infantile Debility." There were three other deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia under five years of age.

It will be seen that the death-rates of Newlyn and of the rural portion of the district are much lower than in the previous years. The difference is due to a saving at both extremes of age, a smaller number of deaths being recorded this year among infants under 1, and persons over 65 years of age. This is, in all probability, due to the very favourable climatic conditions of the year—the high and equable run of the temperature, with absence of extremes, especially in the winter half, and the high average of bright sunshine.

Newlyn. Scarlatina claimed two victims among children at Newlyn, and Whooping Cough one. Two deaths from Diarrhoea occurred at Newlyn of children and one of an aged person. From Phthisis two deaths took place at Newlyn of children and four of grown up persons. From Bronchitis and Pneumonia there were one death of a young child and two of grown up persons registered. In addition to these, one death of a child and two of adults from Heart Disease were recorded.

Rural. In the country portion of the district one child died from Broncho-pneumonia, while above the age of five years there were one death from Bronchitis, four from Heart Disease, and one from Typhoid Fever, the latter in Paul Hill, near Newlyn.

Infectious Diseases.

I closed last year's report with the expression of a belief that the Scarlatina Epidemic, prevalent throughout 1895, had nearly reached its end. Fortunately the hope has been justified. As against 104 cases of Scarlatina within the district in 1895, twenty-one were ascertained to exist in the year that has just finished. Of these eight were notified in January, one in February, two in April, one in May, one in June, one in July. I heard of one other case in October, and none was notified thereafter. But on visiting Mousehole on November 3rd, I came across two closely related families, who upon inspection proved to have three children apiece affected. One child was attending the Wesleyan School at Mousehole. while yet in the peeling stage. I have not heard of, or been able to discover, any fresh cases since. Only, in connection with the possible recrudescence of this and other Infectious Diseases, it must be remembered that we adjoin the district of an Authority which persistently declines to avail itself of the provisions of the Infectious Diseases' Notification Act.

My last year's report, in its last paragraph, also drew attention to an outbreak of Typhoid Fever then occurring at Street-an-nowan, Newlyn. Two fresh cases occurred there in January, and were removed to the West Cornwall Infirmary, Penzance. Another outbreak commenced in July, when two cases were reported at Street-an-nowan. One occurred in Newlyn Town in August, and during August and September four cases were reported on Paul Hill, adjoining the Street-an-nowan district, one of these latter having a fatal termination. Typhoid outbreaks of this kind, thus localised and distributed, can only be set down to imperfect sewerage, and their recollection should spur your Authority to lose no time, as soon as the necessary sanction of the Local Government Board has been obtained, in pressing forward a complete improved sewerage scheme for the Street-an-nowan district.

Two cases of Typhoid Fever occurred during June and July at Mousehole, and both ended fatally.

One case of Erysipelas at Newlyn was reported to me in January, and one case of Measles at Paul Churchtown in October. Both were of mild character.

These complete the list, 39 in all, of Zymotic Diseases for the year.

Need of Hospital Accommodation and Disinfecting Apparatus.

I would venture to repeat my oft-offered remark that the district is without hospital accommodation and disinfecting apparatus. The Scarlatina Epidemics of 1893 and 1895 have clearly shown the continuous necessity of such provision, while their absence places us completely at the mercy of events in case of the arrival of Smallpox, Cholera, or other dreaded infectious disorder.

I am, Gentlemen,

Faithfully yours,

RICHARD DAVEY BOASE,

M.O.H. Paul Urban Sanitary District.

5, MORRAB ROAD,
PENZANCE,

Jananuary 16th, 1897.

